

Gods Judgment against Murderers.

O R, A N
A C C O U N T
Of a Cruel and Barbarous
M U R T H E R,

Committed on *Thursday* Night, the 14th of *August*, at *Sadler's Musick-House* near *Islington*, on the Body of *Mr. Waite*, a Lieutenant of a Man of War, by one *Mr. French*, a Lawyer of the *Temple*; shewing how they Quarrell'd about Women. With an Account of his Examination before the Worshipful Justice *Ward*, and his Commitment to *Newgate*.

To which is added,

The Dreadful Fate of a Young Gentleman who Murder'd his own Mother, and the Terrible End he came to.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *J. Read* in *White-Fryers, Fleetstreet*, 1712.



ACCOUNT Of a Cruel and Barbarous MURDER.

*Committed on the Body of Mr. Waite, Lieutenant
of a Man of War, by Mr. French a Lawyer of
the Temple, &c.*

I*T seems strange, That among the many good
Offices of the Reformatiō of Manners to sup-
press ail Loose and Disorderly Assemblies, which has
piously effected in many Cases, especially putting a
final stop to those lewd and scandalous Seminaries
of Bartholomew and May Fair, which were the
Springs and Nurseries of Vice, and the continual
support and countenance of Disorder and Lewdness.
Bnt tho' their Care or Power has fail'd therein, it
may be hoped the following sad and lamentable
Disaster will give a just Alarm to our Magistrates*
now

now in Power to give a Checque to such unhappy Proceedings for the future, or at least that a strict Regard may be had to keep within the Bounds of Law.

This famous Place call'd *Sadlers-Wells*, otherwise *Miles's Musick-House*, is so well known to most People in Town, that I need not describe it. It is a daily Meeting or Rendezvous of People who go thither to divert themselves, and tho' 'tis in many very Innocent, and in the People of the House, only getting an Honest Livelihood; yet the Method of so doing is apt to draw many unaccountable and disorderly Persons to frequent it, under the colour of diverting themselves, as I have said, but sit there to indulge their idle and fantastick Humours, so that indeed the People of the House cannot distinguish or know one from another.

This is said to be the occasion of this unfortunate Gentleman's Death, who being in the Fields walking with some Friends, he left them except one, who went with him, and said, *He would go to Sadlers-Wells to divert himself for Half an Hour, for he had never been there in his Life*; but alas it prov'd a fatal Diversion! as the sequel will make appear.

These Two Gentlemen (who I find were
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Strangers to each other) went into the Gallery to drink near the Organ-Loft, yesterday in the Evening, being *Thursday* the 14th Instant, where they sat next to one another: It is said that one of them fell into Discourse with a Woman that sat near him, and that the other, the deceased, likewise exchanging some Words, wou'd have had the Prisoner chang'd Places with him, which he refus'd to do.

This in the End came to very high Words, till at length the deceased, Mr. *Waite*, gave the other a Box o'the Ear, which he disdaining to take, drew his Sword, as did the deceased at the same time, and both pushing at one another, the latter receiv'd his Deaths Wound, being about 8 Inches deep in his Body, of which he immediately dropt down, saying, *Lord have Mercy on me, I am a dead Man.*

Help was presently got, and the Surgeon at first gave some hopes of saving his Life, but of a sudden he chang'd, and died in about Half an Hour. The other having in the mean time been secur'd, was quickly after carried before the Worship Mr Justice *Ward* near *Saffron-Hill*; who upon Examination of the Matter, committed Mr. *French* to *Newgate*, where he now remains under very great Agonies of Conscience for what he has done. A

Dreadful Warning

TO

Disobedient Children:

Giving a Sad and Dreadful Account of one Mr. Palmer of *Upton Snagsbury*, five Miles from *Worcester*; who lately lived a very wicked Life, and coming home Drunk one Evening, he asked his Mother for Money to carry on his Debauchery; who putting him off till Morning, he grew so impatient and desperately Wicked, that he rose in the dead of the Night, and cut his Mothers Throat in the Bed, and afterwards Binding and Ravishing the Maid-Servant, he Murder'd her also; and then Robbed the House of Money and Plate, and set it on Fire, burning the Dead Bodies to Ashes.

AT *Upton Snagsbury*, lived one Mrs. Palmer, a Widow-Woman, of a Considerable Fortune, having one only Son, of which she was extremely Fond, (giving in his Childish years) such Liberty, that growing up he became so headstrong and wilful, that seeing the Error of her too great Indulgence, she labour'd by good advice and gentle

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Means to bring him back to the Obedience he had cast off towards her, and from the ill Courses he took in frequently breaking the Sabbath, and often getting drunk in Lewd Company, but to her hearts Grief and Sorrow he grew more obstinate, and from lesser Sins he took himself to greater; being inticed thereto by a debauched lewd Woman he got acquainted with at a Fair, on whose beastly Lust he so doated and came besotted, that she persuaded him to rob his Mother to supply her Extravagancies, tho' she was liberal-handed towards him, in hopes that wari'd by excess of Pleasure, he might at length see his youthful Follies, and become a sober Youth; but by keeping this and other base Women Company, he was so plunged in filthiness, that Cursing and Swearing became habitual to him; and in his drunken fits he pretended often to Converse with the Devil, who promised to do great Things for him, if he would be ruled by him, and wholly give himself up to his Will and Pleasure; nor could the pious Advice and Admonition of Ministers and other good People work upon him to make him leave his wicked Courses. For one Night having been in bad Company, and especially of lewd Women, surfeiting in Drunkenness and Debauchery, he came home twearing and cursing at a prodigious Rate, requiring Money of his sorrowful Mother, who laboured to pacify him with good Words, intreating him to go to Bed and sleep that Night, and if it appear'd in the Morning when he awaked, that he wanted any Money, he should have it.

This seemingly satisfy'd him, and after many dire Imprecations he went to Bed, but could not rest but kept

kept waking till he heard the rest of the Family (which consisted of his Mother and a Maid Servant) were in Bed ; then the Devil put it into his Head to rise and *Murder* them, that so he might supply himself with what Money and Plate was in the House ; little thinking (like other desperate Sinners) what a fatal Reckoning he must one Day make for it. These good People who dreamed not their Tragedy was so near, and that they had nourished a Viper in their Bosom to sting them to Death, in a fatal hour had left open their Chamber Door.

About midnight this Ungracious Son being a little come to himself, got up with a Murtherous Mind, and getting into the Chamber of his Mother, drew a large Knife out of his Sheath, and Surprizing his sleeping aged Mother, barbarously Cut her Throat, after which desperate Wickedness, he remembered the Maid-servant who lay in a loft above ; and that she might not come a witness against him, he went softly up, and finding her asleep, first ravish'd her, and then Cut her Throat from Ear to Ear, then musing upon it it came in his Head to Fire the House, when he had plunder'd what he thought fit, that the dead Bodies being so consum'd, it might be thought to have happened by Accident, and he not being suspected thereof. But God (who never suffers such Monsters in Wickedness to go unpunish'd even in this World) brought the discovery to light : For tho' he denied to have been at home that Night, and seem'd wonderful Sorry at the surprizing Misfortune, as he termed it ; yet living after profusely, and having spent all his Money, coming to sell some Plate he was discover'd and charg'd with the Fact, when not able to

give an Account where he was that fatal Night, or how he came by the Plate, unless he had a hand in the Mischief, being carried before a Magistrate, he confessed the whole Fact as related; shedding abundance of Tears, and declaring, the Devil working upon his wicked Inclinations had put him upon it, which he wish'd he could repair with the loss of his own Blood.

Upon this Confession he was sent to Goal, where he remain'd very sorrowful, often crying out in the Night, and when the cause was demanded, he affirmed the Ghosts of the Murther'd Persons appeared to him in frightful Shapes, pointing to their Ghastly Wounds, and in a threatening Manner, summoning him to appear before the dreadful Tribunal of Almighty God, to answer for their Innocent Blood, that cry'd for speedy Vengeance against him.

After he had some time lain in this sorrowful Condition, his Tryal came on, where he pleaded Guilty to his Indictment, saying, *His youthful Sins had brought this heavy Judgment upon him*; relating all the Circumstances of the Murther, and firing the House; and shedding many Tears, declaring before his Sentence he desir'd to dye, for so wicked a Wretch as he was no longer fitter to live upon the Face of the Earth. When he was Sentenced to be Hang'd, the Court exhorted him to serious Repentance of his Sins, and to pray to God to deliver his Soul from Blood-Guiltiness, and in the Blood of Christ wash out the Stains that so grievously polluted it. He promised to do what in him lay, and a Minister was ordered to attend him, who gave him Ghostly Consolation for the short remainder of the time he had to live.

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Sentence of Death being pass'd upon him, he was order'd likewise to be hanged in Chains, for a Terrible Example to other ungracious Wretches; and four days after, he was brought forth to Execution, wringing his Hands, and weeping bitterly, begging of those that went as Spectators to pray Earnestly to God to have *Mercy* on his Soul, and Enable him to undergo the bitter pains of Death. When he came to the Place of Execution, the Minister who had been often with him in Prison, attended there to comfort him in his passage out of the World, and to do him the last good Office, in admonishing him to a serious Repentance, and in praying with him. This unfortunate Wretch being now mounted on the Ladder, and ty'd up, after some Sighs and Tears, fetching a heavy Groan from the Bottom of his Heart, thus begun, (at the Ministers desire) to address himself to the Spectators, which were many.

His Dying Speech and Exhortation, at the Place of Execution.

GOOD People all, you that are come to see my shameful and untimely End, (which I confess has deservedly fallen upon me, at the just Judgment of the Righteous God of all the Earth, for the deepest of Crimes) I beseech you to take warning by my Fall; beware of Subtil Wiles of the Enemy of your Souls, who goes about like a roaring Lyon, seeking whom he may devour. In my Infant Tears I was brought up in the way of Virtue, but lest'ning to his Temptations, I soon fell away as I grew to riper Tears, not regarding God's Holy

Holy Word, but wilfully breaking the Sabbath, delighting more to be at an Ale house with ill Company then at the Church. My Parents indeed laboured to dissuade me from it, but to them I lent a deaf Ear, grew stubborn and disobedient, for which I am heartily Sorry, and of which I Earnestly intreat you, especially the younger Sort, to have a care of Sabbath-breaking and Drunkenness; in Disobedience to my Parents I fell to lustful desires, and by the Temptation of lewd Women, and the Snares of Satan, to betray Mankind to Ruin, I grew extravagant, and often robb'd my Mother to supply their Insatiable Cravings; till at last the Devil getting Power over me, I committed these horrid Murthers, for which my Heart now Bleeds within me; and then taking what I thought fit, I set Fire to the House, in hopes to prevent a discovery; but God, who sees all in secret, has brought me to Punishment openly; yet I hope through true Penitance and Sence of my Sins, he will at this last Moment have Mercy on my poor Precious and Immortal Soul; and so desiring you all, Young and Old, to refrain from Drunkenness, Sabbath-Breaking, and Whoredom, least they bring you to worse Sins. I entreat your Prayers to Almighty God for me, by whose Mercies, thro the Blood of Jesus Christ, I hope to find Eternal Comfort: Here he burst out into Tears, advising all young People to beware of Sabbath-breaking, which had been the first Step of his Ruin; also of Drunkenness, Swearing and Whoredom, as they love their Peace here, and their Eternal Welfare hereafter; for this had brought him to a shameful and untimely End, and would do the like by them if they avoided them not.

The Ministers Prayer.

O Eternal and Merciful Lord God, who willingly grieveſt not, nor afflicteſt the Children of Men, but, provoked by our Sins, thou juſtly puniſheth us: Look down, we beſeech thee, in the multitude of thy Mercies upon this thy Servant, at whoſe Sins thou art juſtly diſpleas'd: O let him not caſt away his Hope in thee, nor place it any where elſe; be with him in the Hour of Death, and be his exceeding Comfort: waſh his Sin ſick Soul from the Stains of Blood guiltineſs, in the precious Blood of thy Son our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; ſo that this painful Life ended, as he departs from hence, thou mayeſt receive him into the Arms of thy Mercy, thro' the Merits of Jeſus Chriſt his Bleſſed Redeemer, Amen.

After he had prayed with the Miniſter, ſaying the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, ſinging a Penitential Pſalm, and then prayed for himſelf in the following Words:

His Dying Prayer.

O Moſt Merciful God and Father of Spirits, aſſiſt me in this my great Extremity with thy comfortable Spirit, deliver me from Blood-guiltineſs, and cleanſe my spotted and polluted Soul in the Rich Redeeming Blood of the Immaculate Lamb, who died to Purge away my Sins; and then were they as Scarlet, I ſhall become as White as Snow: Be with me, O Lord, in the Moment of my Death, and keep my Faith ſtedfaſt in a reliance on thee, that the Tempter may have no Power over
me;

me, but passing from this shameful Place, by a Death I have most justly deserv'd, I may be received into Abraham's Bosom in Bliss, there to Praise and Adore thee World without End, Amen.

After this, having commended his Spirit into the Hands of his merciful Creator, he was turn'd off; causing many wet Eyes, to think his Wickedness should cut him off in the Flower of his Youth, and make him an Example to warn others; being cut down he was Hanged up again in Chains, as a sad Monument to all ungracious Children.

At the Day appointed for the Sermon to be Preach'd before the said Malefactors, the Words that were read, was *Proverbs 30th, and 17 v. The Eye that Mocketh at his Father, and despiseth to obey his Mother, the Ravens of the Valley shall pick it out, and the young Eagles shall eat it.*



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